[Translation]

Small Hydro Power Projects

5470. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether small hydel power projects have not proved successful in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these small hydel projects effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR.S.VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) 210 small hydel power projects (upto 3 MW station capacity), aggregating to 144 MW have already been installed in various parts of the country. In addition, 183 projects aggregating to 241 MW are in various stages of implementation.

The progress of implementation has been somewhat slow due to the low priority accorded by the State Electricity Boards for such small hydro projects, inadequate State Plan allocations, as also difficult terrain and inaccessible sites, particularly in the hilly areas and the North Eastern region.

(c) The Ministry of Non-Conventionl Energy Sources provides financial assistance for undertaking feasibility studies and implementation of projects, in both the Government and private sectors. Guidelines have also been issued to States for announcing policies to attract private investments for commercial small hydro projects. Fiscal incentives such as concessional customs duty, excise duty exemption, five year tax holiday, etc. are also being extended. Soft loans are also available from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. As a result of all these measures, there is increasing private sector interest for taking up these projects. A Hilly Hydro Project with partial UNDP/GEF assistance and a Pilot Project on Portable Microhydel Sets are also being implemented as small, community-based off-grid projects.

Export of Tea

5471. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the total quantity of tea likely to be exported during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of tea during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) A target of 180 million kg export of tea has been set for 1997-98.

(c) Government and the tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and compaign to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indicn tea.

Statement

Exports of Tea

(Quantity : Million kgs)

(Value Rs. crores)

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 (April-Jan)	
Country	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Russian Fed.	41.06	271.94	68.05	483.80	25.41	198.51
Kazakhistan	2.68	13.74	3.56	23.23	1.74	11.31
Ukrain	4.28	24.16	2.79	20.00	0.52	3.22
Azerbaijan	-	-	0.03	0.23	-	-
Uzbekistan					1.53	10.26